

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

March 28, 2007

Synopsis

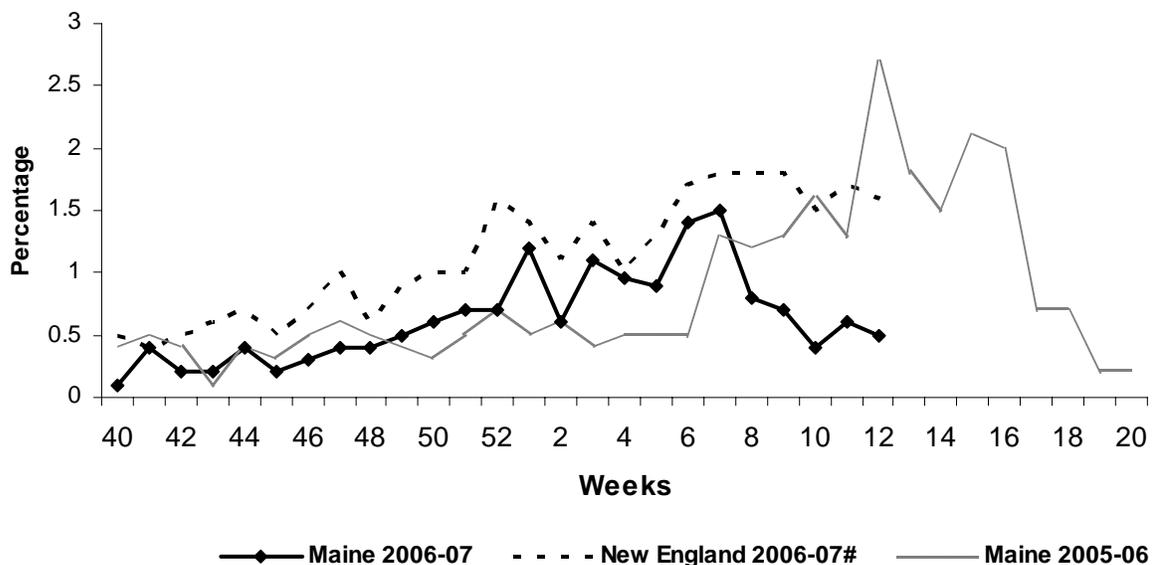
During the week ending March 24, 2007 (MMWR week 12)*, regional influenza activity was reported in Maine. An increase in laboratory-confirmed influenza and influenza-associated hospitalizations was observed this week. One outbreak of influenza-like illness was reported during the week ending March 24, 2007.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending March 24, 2007, 0.5% of sentinel provider outpatient visits were due to ILI (range 0% - 1.2%).

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2005-07



New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

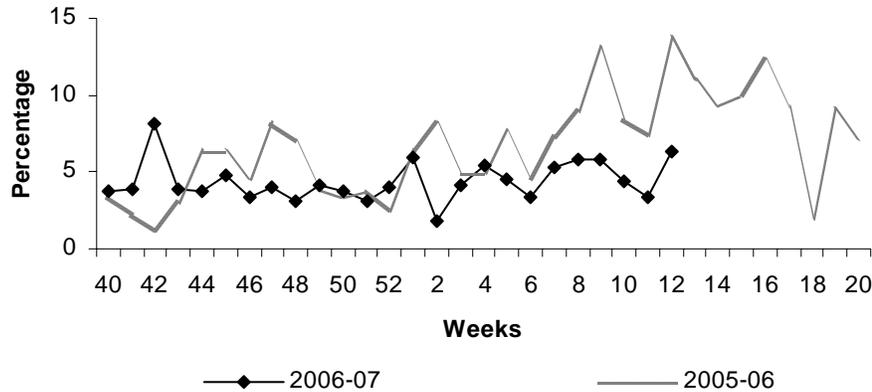
Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending March 17, 2007 (week 11), 3.4% of admissions reported by three hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 1.6% - 5.9%). During the week ending March 24, 2007 (week 12), 6.4% of admissions reported by two hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 1.9% - 14.9%).

* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

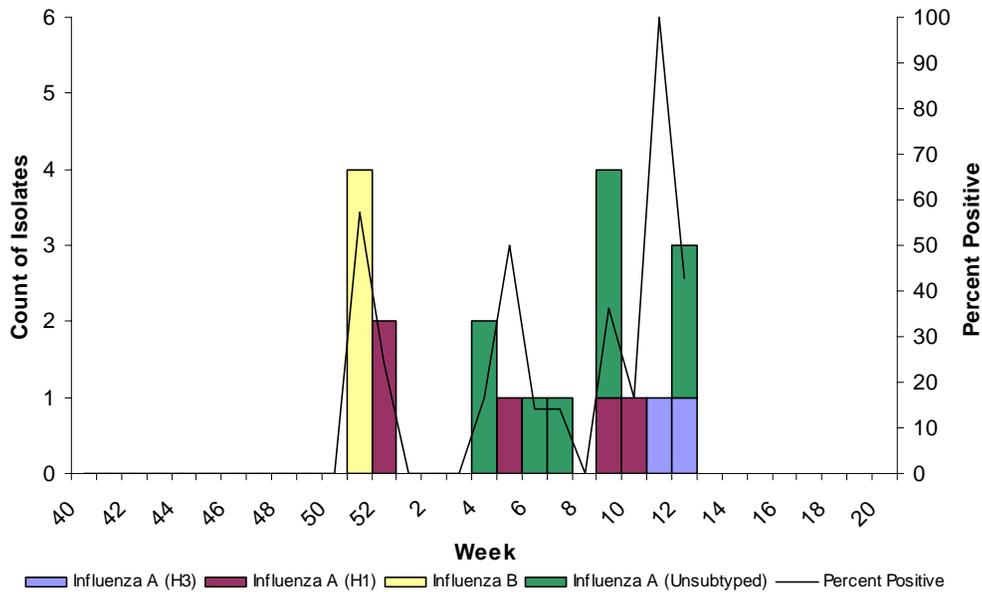
Hospital Admissions due to Respiratory Illness -- Maine, 2005-07



Laboratory Reporting

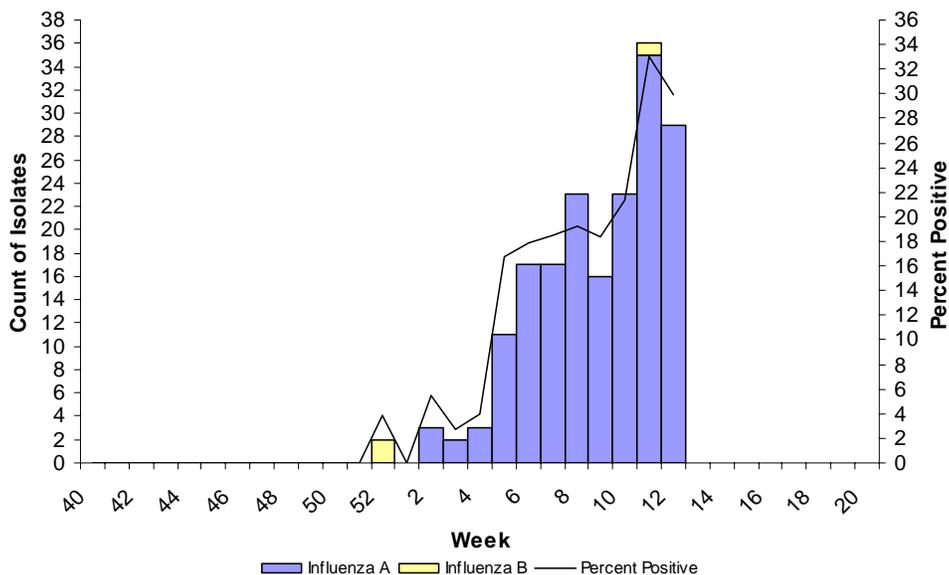
During the week ending March 24, 2007, seven respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza culture. Of these, three specimens (42.9%) were positive for influenza A (2 for influenza A [unsubtyped] and 1 for influenza A [H3]) and results are pending on four specimens. As of March 24, 2007, a total of 167 respiratory specimens have been submitted for culture and/or PCR to HETL since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Of these specimens, 20 (12.0%) were culture or PCR-positive for influenza (5 for influenza A [H1], 2 for influenza A [H3], 9 for influenza A [unsubtyped], and 4 for influenza B), four (2.4%) specimens were presumptive positive for enterovirus, one (0.6%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, one (0.6%) specimen was positive for RSV, three (1.8%) specimens were not tested, results are pending for six specimens, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Respiratory Specimens Culture and/or PCR-Positive for Influenza – Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, 2006-07



During the week ending March 24, 2007, a total of 97 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 29 (29.9%) specimens were positive for influenza A. As of March 24, 2007, a total of 1,312 respiratory specimens have been submitted for viral testing to two reference laboratories in Maine since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Of these, 183 (13.9%) specimens were positive for influenza (180 for influenza A and 3 for influenza B), 223 (17.0%) were positive for RSV, 1 (0.1%) specimen was positive for parainfluenza 2, 6 (0.5%) were positive for parainfluenza-3, 14 (1.1%) were positive for adenovirus, 12 (0.9%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza – Two Reference Laboratories, Maine 2006-07



Outbreaks

During the week ending March 24, 2007, one outbreak of influenza-like illness was reported in an eastern region school. To date, five outbreaks of influenza have been reported in Maine this season.

Table: Influenza-like illness outbreaks by selected characteristics – Maine, 2006-07

Facility Type*	Region	Date Reported	Attack Rate %		Hospitalizations #	Deaths #	Vaccination rate %		Lab-confirmed
			Residents	Staff			Residents	Staff	
School	Western	2/5/07	8.9	0	0	0	^	^	Influenza
School	Midcoast	2/12/07	25.0	20.0	0	0	^	^	^
LTC	Western	2/21/07	4.8	0	1	0	^	40.0	Influenza
School	Western	2/22/07	31.4	6.3	0	0	^	^	Influenza A
School	Eastern	3/21/07	20.4	0	0	0	^	^	^

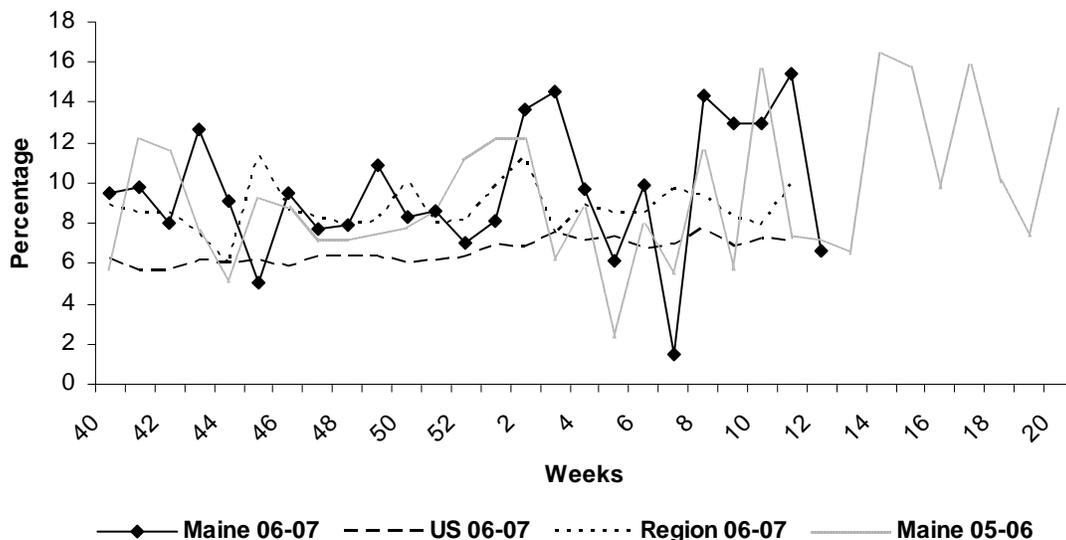
* Outbreak definition is specific to facility type. An outbreak in long-term care facilities (LTC) is defined as ≥ 3 patients with ILI identified on same floor or ward during a short (e.g., 48-72 hour) period OR ≥ 1 patients with lab-confirmed influenza; an outbreak in an acute care facility is defined as ≥ 1 patients with ILI or lab-confirmed influenza with symptom onset ≥ 48 hours post-admission (i.e., nosocomial); and an outbreak in a school is defined as $\geq 15\%$ absentee rate among student population due to ILI or lab-confirmed influenza. ^ Data unavailable

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending March 24, 2007, 6.6% of deaths reported by three city vital records office were attributable to pneumonia and influenza (range: 0% - 23.1%).

Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2005-07



^ New England includes the following reporting areas: Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; Cambridge, MA; Fall River, MA; Hartford, CT; Lowell, MA; Lynn, MA; New Bedford, MA; New Haven, CT; Providence, RI; Somerville, MA; Springfield, MA; Waterbury, CT; Worcester, MA.

